



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/632,845	08/04/2000	Shrikumar Hariharasubrahmanian	0024-0003	2524
24267	7590	12/22/2003	EXAMINER	
CESARI AND MCKENNA, LLP 88 BLACK FALCON AVENUE BOSTON, MA 02210			SHAH, CHIRAG G	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER			
2664				

DATE MAILED: 12/22/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/632,845	HARIHARASUBRAHMANIAN, SHRIKUMAR
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Chirag G Shah	2664

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

**A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.**

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2000.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-44 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>2,4, and 5</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8-10, 12, 13, 16-18, 20, 21, and 24-44 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sabaa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,389,016).

Referring to claims 1, 9, 17, and 42-44, Sabaa discloses in the column 2, lines 63 to column 3, lines 25 and figures 1-4 of a method for transmitting data as a number of segments in separate packets, each packet including a sequence number field (each group is segmented into a plurality of packets and the packets within each group are sequentially indexed with sequence numbers, column 4, lines 35-56), the method comprising: partitioning the sequence number field into a plurality of portions (as disclosed in figure 1 and column 4, lines 35-56); generating a sequence number corresponding to the plurality of portions (as disclosed in figures 1, 3 and column 4, lines 35-56), at least one portion identifying a particular segment of the data (as disclosed in figure 2); transmitting a data packet including a segment of the data and the sequence number to a receiving device (as disclosed in figures 1, 3 and claims 1, transporting data between a sending entity and a receiving entity over a data communications system wherein the sending entity divides data into a plurality of groups which are sequentially indexed with

Art Unit: 2664

group numbers, each group is segmented into a plurality of packets which are sequentially indexed in each group with sequence numbers); receiving an acknowledgement packet from the receiving device, the acknowledgement packet including an acknowledgement sequence number (as disclosed in figures 1, 4, claims 1 and 2, and column 5, lines 35-67, specifically, when the last packet detector 40 detects a packet with its last packet bit, the receiver sends a positive acknowledgement packet to the sender by the acknowledgment sending unit 42 with the acknowledgement filed set to indicate a positive acknowledgement and it is preferable that, in a known location in the user data portion of the packet, the group number of the group just received in entirety is indicated); and determining a next segment of the data to transmit based on the acknowledgement sequence number (as disclosed in figure 1 and claim 1 and 2, specifically based on the acknowledgment positive or negative, the next expected sequence number is indicated) as claims. Furthermore, Sabaa discloses in figure 2, reference index 56 of the method of claims, wherein the data represents at least one of a data file, a data message and application generated data as claims.

Referring to claims 2, 10, and 18, Sabaa discloses in figure 1, claims 1, 2, and column 6, lines 14-48, the method of claim 1, wherein the acknowledgement sequence number includes an incremented version of the at least one portion of the sequence number transmitted to the receiving device and wherein the determining includes: identifying the next segment to transmit based on the incremented version as claims.

Referring to claims 4, 12, and 20, Sabaa discloses in figure 1, claims 1, 2, and column 5, lines 35-67, the method of claim 1, further comprising: repeating the transmitting,

receiving and determining for additional segments of the data file until all the segments of the data have been transmitted as claims.

Referring to claims 5, 13, and 21, Sabaa discloses in figure 2 and in claims 1 and 2, wherein the transmitting includes: transmitting the data packet without storing information identifying the segment (group) being transmitted to the receiving device as claims.

Referring to claims 8, 16, and 24, Sabaa discloses in column 2, lines 63 to column 3, lines 25 of the method of claim 1, wherein the generating includes: generating the at least one portion of the sequence number based on predictable processing performed by the receiving device (the sending entity divides data into a plurality of groups which are sequentially indexed with group numbers, each group is segmented into a plurality of packets which are sequentially indexed in each group with sequence numbers and thus, when the sequence number of the received packet matches the expected sequence number, the receiving entity accepts the received packets for further processing, and increments the expected sequence number of the group), and generating at least one other portion of the sequence number in accordance with a specification of a relevant protocol (as disclosed in figure 2, that the packet 50 is a data unit having a size 52, and consisting of a header portion 54 and a user data portion 5. The header portion 54 contains addressing information 58 and optional user-defined protocol control information) as claims.

Referring to claims 25, 26, 29, 32, 35, 37, 39, 41, Sabaa discloses in the column 2, lines 63 to column 3, lines 25, and in figures 1-4 of a system for transmitting a data stream as a number of discrete packets, each packet including a sequence number (Each group is segmented into a plurality of packets and the packets within each group are sequentially indexed with sequence numbers, column 4, lines 35-56), the method comprising: partitioning the sequence

number field into a plurality of portions (as disclosed in figure 1, figure 2, and column 4, lines 35-56), the system comprising: partitioning the header filed into a plurality of subfields as claim (figure 2); means for generating a sequence number including a plurality of portions, at least one portion identifying a particular segment of the data stream (as disclosed in figures 1, 3 and column 4, lines 35-56); means for sending a data packet including a first segment of the data stream and the sequence number to a receiving device (as disclosed in figures 1, 3 and claims 1, transporting data between a sending entity and a receiving entity over a data communications system wherein the sending entity divides data into a plurality of groups which are sequentially indexed with group numbers, each group is segmented into a plurality of packets which are sequentially indexed in each group with sequence numbers); means for obtaining an acknowledgement packet from the receiving device, the acknowledgement packet including an acknowledgment sequence number (as disclosed in figures 1, 4, claims 1 and 2, and column 5, lines 35-67, specifically, when the last packet detector 40 detects a packet with its last packet bit, the receiver sends a positive acknowledgment packet to the sender by the acknowledgment sending unit 42 with the acknowledgement filed set to indicate a positive acknowledgement and it is preferable that, in a known location in the user data portion of the packet, the group number of the group just received in entirety is indicated); and means for identifying a next segment of the data stream to transmit based on the acknowledgment sequence number (as disclosed in figure 1 and claim 1 and 2, specifically based on the acknowledgment positive or negative, the next expected sequence number is indicated) as claims.

Referring to claims 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 34, 36, 38, 40, Sabaa discloses the method of claim 26, further comprising: receiving an acknowledgement packet from the receiving device, the

acknowledgement packet including an acknowledgment sequence number (as disclosed in figures 1, 4, claims 1 and 2, and column 5, lines 35-67, specifically, when the last packet detector 40 detects a packet with its last packet bit, the receiver sends a positive acknowledgment packet to the sender by the acknowledgment sending unit 42 with the acknowledgement filed set to indicate a positive acknowledgement and it is preferable that, in a known location in the user data portion of the packet, the group number of the group just received in entirety is indicated); and determining a next data segment to transmit based on the acknowledgment sequence number (as disclosed in figure 1 and claim 1 and 2, specifically based on the acknowledgment positive or negative, the next expected sequence number is indicated) as claims. Sabaa further discloses in figure 2 of the method, wherein the at least one portion identifies a particular data segment in a data stream, wherein the determining includes: identifying a portion of the acknowledgement sequence number corresponding to the at least one portion transmitted to the receiving device (figures 1, 4, claims 1, 2, and column 5, lines 35-67), and determining a next data segment of the data stream to transmit based on a value of the identified portion (figures 1, 2, and claims 1 and 2) as claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3, 11 and 19 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sabaa in view of Coile (U.S. Patent No. 6,006,268).

Referring to claims 3, 11, and 19, Sabaa discloses in figure 2, that the packet 50 is a data unit having a size 52, and consisting of a header portion 54 and a user data portion 5. The header portion 54 contains addressing information 58 and optional user-defined protocol control information (not shown). Sabaa however fails to disclose that the specifically that the transmitting includes: transmitting the data packet using Transmission Control Protocol/Internet protocol (TCP/IP). Coile discloses in figures 1 and 2 and column 5, lines 44-63, column 6, lines 23-36 and respective portions of the specification of sending packets utilizing the TCP/IP protocol from source to destination (using a client originated sequence number). Therefore, it would have been obvious to incorporate utilizing the TCP/IP protocol as taught in Coile's invention into Sabaa's invention in order to properly route packets while reducing overhead.

5. Claims 6, 7, 14, 15, 22 and 23 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sabaa et al. (U.S Patent No. 6,389,016).

Referring to claims 6, 7, 14, 15, 22 and 23, Sabaa discloses in figure 1 and specifically in column 4, lines 34-60 that the dividing unit 12 divides the entire data into a plurality of independent groups. The groups are sequentially indexed with group numbers. Sabaa, however fails to explicitly discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of portions includes a least significant portion, wherein the partitioning includes: setting the length of the least significant portion based on the length of the segments transmitted and setting the length of the least significant portion to n bits when the length of the segments transmitted is 2^n bits. Sabaa further discloses in column 4, lines 38-60 that the groups are sequentially indexed with group

numbers. Each group is also segmented into a plurality of packets. Each packet may have a fixed size or a variable size. The last packet (which may be defined as a least significant portion) in the group may be of a smaller size, depending on the total amount of user data. Thus, the setting of the last packet in the group is based on the length of the segments transmitted within the group. Furthermore implying that the setting may include setting the length of the least significant portion (last packet) to n bits when the length of the segments transmitted within the group is 2^n fixed bits as claims. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Sabaa's suggestions with respect to last packet in the group, for setting the length of the least significant portion (last packet within group) in order to accurately identify length of each packet being transmitted.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 305-3988, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 305-3988 (for informal or draft communications, please label "Proposed" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2021 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Chirag G Shah whose telephone number is 703-305-5639. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wellington Chin can be reached on 703-305-4366. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

cgs


Ajit Patel
Primary Examiner